

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for storing image files over time are disclosed. A method for managing digital data storage over time in a computer based data storage system includes, acquiring an image from a client, associating a representation of the image with the client, storing the representation in a first image file format, receiving a client request for delivery of the image in a preferred image file format, determining if the first image file format is compatible with the preferred image file format, translating the representation from the first image file format to the preferred file format when the first image file format is incompatible with the preferred file format, and delivering the image as desired. The method may be implemented by a data storage system having a primary data storage device, a computing device including an operable data manager, a network interface, and a secondary data storage device. The data manager may be programmed to store and process requests to receive a copy of a stored image in a preferred file format different from the file format used to acquire and/or store the saved image. Preferably, each subsequent file format results in the storage of an additional version of the original image.